is made to the power projects in the States on recommendation of the Ministry of Power limited to the power capacity allocated to the respective States. States of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have recommended projects far in excess of allocated capacities. Ministry of Power has been requested to reprioritise and rationalise the recommendations so as to keep the allocations within the sanctioned capacity.

Indo-Canadian Joint Commission

6097. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indo-Canadian Joint Commission is proposed to be set up to establish better economic co-operation between both the countries;

(b) if so, the areas of co-operation identified so far; and

(c) the steps taken in the above matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) During the recent visit of Canadian Foreign Minister, Llyod Axworthy to India it was decided to establish a Joint Ministerial Committee headed by the External Affairs Ministers of the two countries. The committee will work towards intensifying co-operation in the economic as well as commercial and political fields. There is, at present, no proposal to set-up a separate Indo-Canadian Joint Economic Commission.

(b) Identification of the exact areas for co-operation will form part of agenda of the first meeting of the Committee the dates for which are yet to be finalised.

(c) The two Governments are in touch with each other to finalise details of the first meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee.

Introduction of Ring Railway in Bangalore

6098. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is a long pending demand from the State of Karnataka for introduction of Ring Railway In Bangalore; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) and (b) The Government of Karnataka have proposed introduction of Light Rail Transit System, in Bangalore. The State Government have requested Government of India for equity participation to the tune of Rs. 500 crores for this Project. However, the Government of Karnataka is still in the process of preparation of Detailed Project Report and Economic and Financial Analysis for the Project. The State Government has been requested to expedite the completion of these Reports to enable the Government of India to take appropriate action with regard to the participation in the equity of the above Project.

Indo-Oman Agreement

6099. DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sultan Kaboos-bin-said of Oman visited India recently;

(b) the details of the agreement signed between the two countries during the visit;

(c) whether any agreement was also signed on Investment/protection and avoidance of direct taxation; and

(d) if so, the details and main purpose of this agreement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The following agreements were signed between the two countries during the visit.

(i) Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement.

(ii) Agreement for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income.

(iii) Memorandum of Agreement for Scientific and Technical Co-operation between the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of Oman and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

(iv) The Executive programme of the Cultural and Educational Agreement between India and Oman for 1997 and 1998.

(v) Memorandum of Understanding on Bilateral Civil Aviation matters.

(vi) Joint Venture Agreement on the Oman-India fertiliser project.

(d) The broad intent of the Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement is to promote and protect investment from either country in the other. Each country is required to encourage and create favourable conditions for investors and the admission of investment shall be subject to the laws and policies of the country where the investment is made. in addition, each country is required to accord treatment to investments from the other country which is fair and equitable. Further the agreement provides that nationalisation and expropriation of the investment shall